SUBJECT No. 176.

Grant of green wood for building purposes on payment of seigniorage.

Mr. Chikannaiya of Goribidnur.

Summary of discussion.—Orders are passed for the grant of cart-loads of timber other than the reserved kind from the District Forests on licenses issued, on payment of seigniorage. Licenses are not granted for the removal of such timber on the ground that trees applied for are green. Dry wood is unserviceable for building purposes. Orders may be passed for the grant of green wood such as nerale, buver, etc., on payment of seigniorage according to rules.

Reply of Government.—The Conservator of Forests reports that there is no such prohibition.

SUBJECT No. 177.

Permission to remove leaves from forests for manure, etc.

(1) Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Rama Rao of Malur.

(2) Mr. Hutcheeregowda, Gubbi Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) In Government Plantations and State Forests, the jungle is generally cleared at Government cost. It is requested that free licenses may be issued for removing the leaves for manure and shrubs for boiling jaggory.

(2) It is requested that free permission may be granted for the removal of green leaves from honge trees in State Forests and Amrut Mahal Kavals up to a man's height or that the raiyats may be allowed to remove the same at two annas per cart-load.

Reply of Government.—Permission cannot be granted to remove leaves from trees in Plantations and State Forests. But District jungles are free (*vide* Rule 9 of Notification of 1901).

SUBJECT No. 178.

Felling Timber.

Messrs. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, B.A., LL.B., Advocate, Shimoga Municipality, and A. Narasimha Iyengar, Sagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The felling of a large quantity of timber in the malnad forests has resulted in thinning the jungle. The supply of timber made by the Forest Department is generally in excess of the demand. Logs felled in the forests are allowed to lie there for a year or two for want of purchasers and then sold.

(*b*) The supply of sandalwood is more than the demand. The prices now obtainable are much lower than the prices that were secured some time back. Felling of timber and collection of sandal may not be allowed only with a view to realize revenue. Further, the felling is out of proportion to the growth. It is a strong belief of malnad people that the thinning of their forests has been the cause of deficient rainfall. It cannot be denied that there is some truth in it. It is requested that felling of timber may be minimised.

Reply of Government.—The forests are not over-worked. Our present fellings do not exceed one in ten thousand trees, and it is not correct to say that they have affected the rainfall. No live sandal tree is now cut. It is not true that the price of sandalwood has gone down. The fact is just the reverse.